

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2 and 4 through 6 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4 and 6 have been amended.

The Action (1) rejected claims 1 and 4 through 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. JP62-299035 to Tsutsu (hereafter "the Tsutsu patent"); (2) rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. JP64-008667 to Arita et al. (hereafter "the Arita patent"); (3) rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. JP01-245226 to Tanaka et al. (hereafter "the Tanaka patent"); (4) rejected claims 4 through 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Tanaka patent; (5) rejected claims 4 through 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Arita patent; and (6) rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Tsutsu patent in further view of U.S. Patent 6,466,686 to Senior (hereafter "the Senior patent"), U.S. Patent 6,327,376 to Harkin (hereafter "the Harkin patent"), U.S. Patent 6,285, 319 to Fujiwara (hereafter "the Fujiwara patent"), and U.S. Patent 5,559,504 to Itsumi et al. (hereafter "the Itsumi patent").

Regarding items (1) through (3) identified above, it is respectfully submitted that present claims 1 and 4 are each patentable over each of the cited references (i.e., the Tsutsu patent, the Arita patent, and the Tanaka patent) and that present claims 1 and 4 define inventions that are neither disclosed nor suggested by such cited references.

It is respectfully submitted that a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires that the prior art teach each and every